

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 OPIC-03 AID-05 XMB-02

IGA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 STR-04 L-03 /044 W

-----091820Z 094226 /43

R 090905Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1278

USDA FAS WASHDC

USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, MA, TZ

SUBJECT: MADAGASCAR AND TANZANIA CLOVE MARKETING ORGANIZATION

REF: (A) ANTANANARIVO 814 (B) ZANZIBAR A-002 (NOTAL)

1. ZANZIBAR'S JUNIOR MINISTER OF EXTERNAL TRADE, ALI ABEID KARUME, TOLD CONSULATE OFFICIAL MAY 6 THAT COMMERCIAL ACCORD WHICH CREATED JOINT CLOVE MARKETING ORGANIZATION WITH MADAGASCAR SHOULD INSURE HIGH PRICES FOR CLOVES IN THE FUTURE. ONE MONTH AGO ZANZIBAR RAISED ITS SELLING PRICE FOR CLOVES TO 7,200 U.S. DOLLARS PER LONG TON, UP FROM 6,120 DOLLARS PER TON. KARUME SAID THAT THIS NEW PRICE DOES NOT APPLY TO INDONESIA, WHICH ANNUALLY PURCHASES 80 PER CENT OF THE ZANZIBAR CLOVE CROP. THE INDONESIANS WILL STILL BE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH ZANZIBAR ON CLOVE PRICES, PAYING SIGNIFICANTLY LESS THAN THE PRICE CHARGED ALL OTHER CUSTOMERS. MADAGASCAR, ACCORDING TO KARUME, EXPORTS LITTLE OF ITS CLOVE CROP TO INDONESIA BECAUSE IT PRODUCES PRIMARILY LOW GRADE CLOVES AND THE INDONESIANS PREFER HIGH GRADE CLOVES SUCH AS ZANZIBAR PRODUCES, TO FLAVOR THEIR CIGARETTES.

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2. KARUME ALSO SAID THAT THERE WILL BE NO TAMMCO (TANZANIAN/MALAGASY CLOVE MARKETING ORGANIZATION) OFFICE IN DAR ES SALAAM, BUT THAT THERE WILL BE AN OFFICE IN ZANZIBAR AND ANOTHER IN ANTANANARIVO. HE SAID HE EXPECTED TO MEET REGULARLY WITH HIS MADAGASCAN COLLEAGUES TO WORK OUT ALL THE DETAILS OF THIS AGREEMENT.

3. KARUME SAID THAT ZANZIBAR RECENTLY BOOSTED PRICES PAID TO PRIVATE CLOVE FARMERS BY ABOUT 10 OR 15 PER CENT AS AN INCENTIVE FOR INCREASED PRODUCTION. ZANZIBAR CLOVE PRODUCTION DROPPED ALMOST 3,000 TONS FOR THE 1976-77 CROP OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR AND ONE REASON GIVEN FOR THE DECREASE IS THAT OWNERS AND WORKERS LACKED INCENTIVE TO PICK THE CROP. (ZANZIBAR'S MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE HAD ESTIMATED THAT PERHAPS AS MUCH AS 60 PER CENT OF THE 1976-77 CROP WOULD BE UNPICKED, A SIZABLE INCREASE OVER THE 15-20 PER CENT WHICH IS NORMALLY LEFT ON THE TREES BECAUSE THE CLOVES CANNOT BE REACHED.) THE INCREASED PRICE PAID TO FARMERS MIGHT MEAN A BETTER CROP IN 1977-78, SINCE MORE CLOVES MAY BE PICKED.
SHIPPY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENTS, FLAVORINGS, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ZANZIB00120
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770162-1178
Format: TEL
From: ZANZIBAR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770576/aaaacogl.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ba62c397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ANTANANARIVO 814, 77 ZANZIBAR A-2
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2590555
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MADAGASCAR AND TANZANIA CLOVE MARKETING ORGANIZATION
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, MA, TZ
To: STATE USDA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ba62c397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009